

# Pastor Dan's Answers to the DBS Questions for the Week of January 13, 2025

## Monday

3 phrases to describe false "wisdom": earthly, unspiritual and of the devil. 2 results of envy and selfish ambition: disorder and every evil practice. 8 words or phrases that describe the **"wisdom that comes from heaven"**: pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive (to God, see 4:7), full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. BONUS QUESTION: What did James mean by the word "impartial"? (Hint: Re-read 2:1-9. I love how scripture answers questions that scripture raises!)

## Tuesday

James' cure for desires that are not met is to pray, and ask God to grant us our desires! But he also warns us that we CAN pray with **"wrong motives"**, and God will not answer those kinds of prayers. Isn't that amazing? We can't trick God. God not only hears our requests but also knows the motives behind our requests and (as it were) "filters out" requests that are from **"wrong motives"**.

## Wednesday

I believe James has in mind whenever we Christians begin to value the things that this ungodly world values, and whenever we live sinful lives because "everyone else is doing it".

## Thursday

Slander is, "Words falsely spoken that damage the reputation of another person."

## Friday

James words, written to me, **"You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes"**, makes me feel so grateful that different people (beginning with my mother) told me about Jesus and made it possible for me to respond to God's prevenient grace in my heart by believing that Jesus died for this **"little mist"** named Dan Owen so that, one day, I will be with God in eternity. It also puts all of the little problems and frustrations of this life into perspective. How important is it, really, that my car got a ding in its bumper or that the Steelers lost another game? They are nothing. They too are a **"mist"** that are only here for a split second in time, compared to eternity, and quickly vanish.

## Saturday

James is condemning the rich not for having a lot of money, but for not sharing their wealth – **"You have hoarded your wealth ..."** (5:3). Specifically, James is condemning the rich business owners for not sharing their wealth with their employees. James 5:4-6 are especially troublesome for conservative Christians (like me) who tend to give business owners a break because they are the ones who took all of the risk when they started their companies. Okay, that's true. They did take all of the risk. But once a Christian business owner's company is established, these verses remind them to share the profits justly with the ones who are doing the work that's required to be a successful company.

## Sunday

5:12 clearly says, **"Above all, my brothers, do not swear."**

It always helps me to remember that there is a huge difference between believing that God CAN do what I'm asking him to do in prayer versus believing that God WILL do what I'm asking him to do. I believe that God asks us to have the faith that he CAN do what we're asking – and leave the rest to him.

Did James know that the stressful "walls" that we put up between ourselves (when we sin against someone) can cause us to become physically sick from the guilt and loneliness? And did he know that healing can come when we confess/admit our sins to one another? (I'm pretty sure that he did.)